

Filed for intro on 01/14/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 616
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Andy McCollum and the Middle Tennessee State University football team on winning the 2001 Sun Belt Conference championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to salute the accomplishments of superb football teams, those which work hard, play skillfully and are very successful; and

WHEREAS, the awesome Middle Tennessee State University football team, which tied for the Sun Belt Conference championship in the league's first season, is clearly one such memorable squad; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders finished the 2001 campaign with a fine 8-3 record, the most wins since 1994. This was their second straight winning season; and

WHEREAS, this great team set a school record for total offense in a season, with an incredible 5,295 yards, only the second school team to reach the 5,000 yards plateau. They averaged 481.4 yards per game, fourth best nationally; and

WHEREAS, the October 6, 2001, game against Idaho was a true classic. It set or tied four N.C.A.A. records, including most points scored by both teams (128) and most touchdowns

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by both teams (tie), 18. The Blue Raiders won 70-58. Middle Tennessee set a school record for most offense with 585 yards on just 67 plays, an average of 10.2 yards per play; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in school history, M.T.S.U. put together back-to-back 600-yard games against Troy State, 641 yards, 12th best in the nation this season, and Vanderbilt, 608 yards, the 24th best in the N.C.A.A. this season; and

WHEREAS, in the biggest comeback in school history, the Blue Raiders beat New Mexico State, after trailing by 24 points in the fourth quarter; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded Coach Andy McCollum has done a great job preparing the team for the rigors of championship play; and

WHEREAS, Coach McCollum has been very fortunate to have an excellent staff, Assistant Strength Coach, Jason McManus; Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Backs, Kacy Rodgers; Defensive Coordinator, Steve Davis; Defensive Tackles, Howard McMahan; Director of Football Operations, Tom Fiveash; Graduate Assistant, Gary Camp; Graduate Assistant, Curtis Henderson; Head Trainer, Bobby Barlow; Linebackers, Kevin Fouquier; Offensive Coordinator, Larry Fedora; Offensive Line, Joe Wickline; Quarterbacks, Alex Robins; and Running Backs, Darin Hinshaw; and

WHEREAS, quarterback Wes Counts, the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year, had what was undoubtedly the top offensive game in Blue Raider history against Idaho, setting three single-game records in leading the team offense to 70 points and 685 total yards. He broke his own school mark by throwing for 459 yards completing 23 of 28 passes, had a record-setting six scoring passes, and completed 15 straight passes; and

WHEREAS, Senior Wes also broke his own single-season completion percentage record by completing 72.6% of his passes for the 2001 season, just shy of the N.C.A. A. record of 73.1%, and tossed a phenomenal seven 300-yard passing games, the most by any signal-caller in school history; and

WHEREAS, junior running back Dwone Hicks, the Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Year, who despite playing sparingly in three games, won two of the league's most coveted honors, most rushing yards (1,143); and

WHEREAS, Dwone also had 24 touchdowns, became the school's leader in touchdowns (48), became the school leader in points scored with 292 points, recorded his 13th 100-yard rushing game, picked up his second 200-yard rushing game and became the first Blue Raider to post back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons; and

WHEREAS, the Seniors posted an overall record of 22-21, had three non-losing seasons, were part of the first IA team in school history, the first IA team to have a winning season, an 11-game home winning streak, were the first to defeat an SEC team, compiled a 15-4 home record, were the first to score 40 or more points five times in a single season, had an overall eight straight victories, the most since 1985, recorded back-to-back undefeated home seasons for the first time since 1993, and had an overall record of 8-3 in November; and

WHEREAS, the members of the team were: **Seniors:** Hansford Johnson, Nick Payne, Kendall Newson, Lance Phillips, Jason Johnson, Wes Counts, Jykine Bradley, Jamison Palmer, Chris Matusek, Scotty Brown, Billy Durham, Jason Spray, Anthony Hood, Sean Saylor, and Tanaka Scott; **Juniors:** Andrico Hines, Chris Johnson, Cha Cha Berry, Tyrone Calico, Wes Stephens, Rod Higgins, P. J. Johnson, Rondell Newson, Dwone Hicks, Johnathan Shaw, John Madrick, Chris Gatlin, Avery Hatten, Sheldon Durham, Louis Kemp, Randy Arnold, Glen Elarbee, Jonathan Barry, David Coy, Jonathan Proby, Brandon Parker, Kevin Pascoe, Preston Portley, David Youell, Reggie Polk, Lucas Frost, Reggie Jones, Steve Ellison, Curtis Daniely, and Kai Zeigler; **Sophomores:** Kerry Wright, Michael Woods, Muhammad Rashada, Wardell Alsup, Hashem Joyner, Joe McClendon, Robert Billings, Brian Kelly, Reshard Lee, Don Calloway, Brandon Lynch, Brad Cooper, Gary Sanders, Joey Montalbano, Josh Willoughby, Brandon Westbrook, Joe Moos, Julius Gant, Bill Brasch, Brett Bucher, Thomas Johnson, Demetrios Walker; and **Freshmen:** Andre Green, Quan Domineck, Alvin Fite, Blake Morris,

Alvin Norris, Shawn Allen, Fletcher Williams, Chris Hough, Brett Trott, Seth Grabo, Shavaskey Brown, Chris Henry, Curt Brown, Jonathan Callahan, and Jerry Vanderpool; each of whom made an important contribution to the success of the team this season; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this outstanding team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Andy McCollum and the 2001 Middle Tennessee State University football team on winning the Sun Belt Conference championship and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.